

The Brethren Evangelist.

PUBLISHED AT
THE BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE.

"Let Us go on Unto Perfection."

TERMS, \$1.50
PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

VOLUME VII.

ASHLAND, OHIO, MARCH 25, 1885.

NUMBER 12.

Gentle Words.

It takes long days of golden sun,
And many a drop of rain,
To start one flower from winter's blight;
To bud and bloom again.
If once from out a trusting eye
We cause a tear to steal,
A hundred words of warmest love
May not the anguish heal.
Then hurl no hasty, cruel shaft,
To give another pain,
Let gentle words, like rain drops, swell
Cold hearts to life again.

SELECTED.

Consecrating Children.

J. M. asks the following
weighty questions:

"What are the doctrinal points
taught in Matthew 19:13-15,
and Mark 10:13-16?"

"1. Have parents a right to
present their children to the
Church for consecration?"

"2. If so, what relation do
those children, who are conse-
crated by the laying on of hands
and prayer, sustain to the
Church?"

The scriptures referred to teach
no doctrinal points. They are
only the words of the Master, on
an occasion when the apostles
forbade children to come to him.
Doctrinal points are, however,
drawn therefrom.

The passage, "Suffer little chil-
dren to come unto me and for-
bid them not," is held to be
authority for infant baptism, in-
fant church membership, and
infant communion, by several
schools of theology. The Ro-
man and Greek will at once
direct you to that scripture if
you ask where the authority for
infant baptism is found.

I take no other view of the
scripture than what it says:
"Suffer little children to come
unto me"; and that means that
children should be allowed and
be invited to become members of
the body of Christ, and partici-
pate in the common exercises of
the congregation. This was the
doctrine and the practice of the
Church in the primitive days,
and we can find no scripture and
no good reasons why we should
do differently now. But this
does not say that infant baptism
is right and should be practiced
in the Church; and there is no
reliable evidence, scriptural or
historical, that authorizes the
custom of baptizing babies. That
custom was a consistent branch
of the severe doctrine of original
sin which filled the minds of
some Christian leaders about the
middle or toward the close of
the second century, and the ter-
rible abuse of the practice, in
later ages, caused a revolt against
any system that might be con-
strued to mean infant baptism,
and the sentiment thus aroused
became a portion of the doctrine
of various reform organizations.

Parents have a right to bring
their children to the Church in
the right way; but consecration,
that depends upon how the word
is defined.

In the time of the Gothic kings
in Spain, or about the end of the
fifth century, it became a custom
for parents to dedicate their
children to the service of God
very early in life; and they were
taken into the bishop's family
and educated under him, instruct-
ed in the rules and discipline of
the church, and such children

were not allowed afterward to
return to a secular life. It is
right and proper for a child to
receive baptism when he attains
an age of eight or nine years;
but that "consecration" belongs
to sophisticated piety.

The child who has been bap-
tized sustains the same relation
to the church that any other
child does. There are no out-
houses and porches to the king-
dom of God: a person is either
inside or outside. Christ's death
removed original sin, and the in-
fant that appears among us is
clean, and shall remain clean un-
til its ability recognizes the priv-
ilege and comprehends the duty
of obeying Christ. *Responsibil-
ity belongs to the side of power and
ability.* Where there is ability
to perceive, there is responsibil-
ity, and responsibility implies
duty. So, as soon as a child is
able to know that there is a God
and a Christ to obey, there is
duty to perform, but no sooner.

The doctrine that children
must become sinners before they
can become saints, is worse than
barbarism, and every Christian
man ought to spew it out of his
his conscience. The child eight
or ten years old is competent to
be as loyal a church member as
the grey-beard of three-score and
ten years; and if he desire so to
do, no one should prevent him.
Such ought to be instructed to
follow the good Master in his
own appointed ways. Children,
at that age, as a rule, are as good
as their parents are, and as well
prepared to enter the society of
believers. No habits of dissipa-
tion are fastened upon them, and
if there is an advantage in fitness
between children and grown peo-
ple, it belongs to the children;
and habits of piety formed and
religious responsibility assumed
early in life will be held dear and
with a devotion that few mani-
fest who return to the holy path
after being stained and broken
up by sin and evil habits. O
how we wish that the idea would
leave the human mind forever
that children must become devils
before they are competent to be-
come righteous.

Repentance is not a pre-requi-
site where there is no sin; the
terms of the Gospel are "He that
believeth and is baptized shall be
saved." Cornelius never repen-
ted. If repentance was a condi-
tion of salvation in all cases, he
never could have been saved.
But he was a devout man and
feared God; so, he only believed
and was baptized.

We earnestly wish all chil-
dren might commence the good
work as the ancient Polycarp
did. When he was ninety-four
years old, he stood by slumber-
ing flames prepared to reduce
his mortal remains to ashes at
the touch of the torch, and de-
clared that eighty and six years
he had served Christ—commen-
ced the good work when he was
eight years old; and he was an
associate and fellow laborer of
the beloved disciple, John. To-
gether they ate of the same spiri-
tual food and drank the same
spiritual drink; together they
shall be in the age of unmea-
sured peace.

ED.

The Religious World.

At the dedication at the new
Methodist church in Fremont,
Ohio, March 1st, Ex-president
Hayes gave \$6,000.

The new Seminary building of
the American Baptist Telugu
Mission, at Ramapatam, was
dedicated on the 11th of Janu-
ary.

Rev. Dr. Talmage received in-
to his Tabernacle Church in
Brooklyn, on the 1st inst., 195
new members, raising his church
roll to 2,395.

Petitions will be circulated un-
der the auspices of the National
Christian Association asking Jo-
seph Cook to devote one or more
of his Monday lectures to sub-
ject of secret societies.

Rev. Dr. Burchard, who sud-
denly made himself famous near
the close of the recent political
campaign, has been retired by
his church and presbytery on a
salary of \$500 a year. Cause,
age.

In St. Louis there is a vigor-
ous Evangelical Alliance at
work, and just now it is putting
forth its influence to promote
the closing of liquor saloons on
Sunday. Thus it is doing a great
and good work.

At the Church of the Cove-
nant at New York; Dr. Marvin
B. Vincent, pastor, responsive
reading of the Psalms, recita-
tions of the Lord's Prayer and
Apostles' Creed have been intro-
duced in the evening services.

Some Hebrew converts, six
males and one female, were re-
cently baptized at St. Paul's
Church, Haggerstone, London,
by the Rev. M. Rosenthal, who
has baptized some one hundred
and forty during the last five
years.

Rev. C. J. Jones has been
chosen editor of the *Herald of
Gospel Liberty*, organ of the
Christian Church, which is pub-
lished in Dayton, Ohio. He
takes the place of Rev. A. W.
Coan, who was prostrated by
paralysis some weeks ago.

A meeting of the State Super-
intendents of the American
Home Missionary Society has
been held in Chicago, to consider
the relation of Congregational
ministers to the Scandinavians
in this country, also to devise
some scheme for a new mission
to Sweden.

The *Independent*, glean-
ing from about two dozen journals
of all Evangelical denominations
finds that the conversions re-
ported in a single week number
28,000. "We must not forget,"
says that journal, "that this list
of upwards of 28,000 converts
represents only a fraction of
the churches—how large or how
small a fraction it would be idle
to undertake to say.

The Presbyterians of Scotland
are divided into three bodies—
the Established Church, the Free
Church, and the United Presby-
terian Church. A movement for
union was inaugurated toward
the close of last year, and it
seems to be gathering strength,
though few influential men are
lending it countenance. At a
largely attended meeting held in

Edinburgh, it was resolved to
take steps to appoint a represen-
tative committee, consisting of
seven from each of the three
churches, to confer on the sub-
ject of union.

The Pope has taken a decided
attitude against the expulsion of
the Catholic Archbishop of Wil-
na from Russia, recently ordered
by the Russian authorities. The
Russian Charge d'Affaires has
been suspended, and is about to
return to Rome. A rupture be-
tween Russia and the Vatican is
imminent. The tension between
the Vatican and Germany be-
cause of the vacant Bishoprics
shows renewed strength.

For the first time in more than
two hundred years the Roman
Curia has granted a dispensation
for the marriage of a Catholic
lady to a Hebrew. The parties
are Hungarians. The Pope, in
a brief founded on the canon
law, stated that marriages be-
tween Catholics and heathens or
Hebrews were permissible, for
the reason that thereby there
was the possibility of saving a
soul by conversion to the Catho-
lic faith.

The foreign mission work in
Germany has suffered a severe
loss in the death of Theodore
Harms, of Hermannsburg, in
Hanover, the leading spirit of
the Hermannsburg Missionary
Society, that has labored with
so great success in South Africa,
East India and China. His
brother, Louis Harms, founded
this society with no capital but
fervent faith, and found this an
excellent investment. Since his
death, his now deceased brother
Theodore has proved himself a
worthy successor.

The organization of Young
Men's Christian Associations in
institutions of learning has been
actively pushed in the last few
years. There now are Associa-
tions in about two hundred col-
leges, academies and normal
schools. The College Secretary,
Mr. D. L. Wishard, has been
very successful in his work, and
now an additional Secretary has
been appointed, Mr. C. K. Ober.
Conventions of delegates of Col-
lege Associations like that re-
cently held at Harvard are among
the most interesting incidents of
Association history.

One of the strangest peoples
with whom missionary enterprise
has had to do are the Falashas,
of Ethiopia. They are black
Jews, about 200,000 in number,
living west of Jordan, who have
as their holy writings the Old
Testament in an Ethiopic ver-
sion, and who still rigidly adhere
to the Mosaic ceremonies and
laws. Undoubtedly they are not
of pure Jewish descent, although
to some extent they are the chil-
dren of Jewish immigrants, who,
in the time of the great disper-
sion, settled in Abyssina and
married wives of that nation.

• The charities of life are scat-
tered everywhere, enameled the
vales of human beings as the
flowers paint the meadows; they
are not the fruits of study, nor
the privilege of refinement, but
a natural instinct.

Notes and Jottings.

I am now at home, but not
idle. I have preached so much
to our good people within the
past year that I thought a change
advisable; hence had arrange-
ments with brother Swihart to
preach for us, but he could not
come, and to my sorrow, on re-
turning from Milford, found that
a large congregation had been
disappointed,—brother Swihart
had not come. We announced
at the schools that meetings
would commence at once and
went to work. The weather and
an unusual amount of sickness
is against us, but yet the Lord is
with us. Two precious ones came
boldly out for the Lord last even-
ing and more will surely follow
soon. We still look for brother
Swihart this week.

But I almost forgot what I
wished to say in the beginning of
my notes, and that is, about the
social meetings of our church. I
had no idea of the strength of
our congregation in social meet-
ings until the present meetings.
The Christian ties which have
bound me to North Liberty have
always been strong, but since our
meeting, in its onward progress,
has developed the talent and
Christian zeal within our mem-
bership, I feel just a little proud
that my home is within the
bounds of the North Liberty
Brethren church.

Nothing is more inspiring to
me than to hear those young
Christian brethren and sisters
whom I led into the stream and
baptized into Christ, hold me up
before God in prayer.

Brethren ministers, gather
your flocks into social pastures.
It will strengthen them and you.
Never did I receive more strength
than when an aged sister of three
score years and ten, arose and
addressed us, who are young,
with a ten minutes speech. Thank
God for Christian fathers and
mothers.

It is but meet for me here to
return my thanks to the good
people of Milford, Ind., for the
kindness shown whilst with
them. Any of our brethren
stopping there will find an intel-
ligent, kind and interesting class
of people.

In behalf of the church here, I
say "welcome" to Mr. Ruby's
"card of thanks" in a late num-
ber of the *EVANGELIST*. Mr.
Ruby is our chorister, and a good
one, too, as the brethren who
have visited our place have tes-
tified. By the way, he is almost
such as we are in the faith; at
least, I venture it as my private
opinion, that he is fully up to the
"Red Sea" baptism, and if he
should ever obey the command,
"Go forward," he would come
straightway up out of the water
and be one with us. We have
often and shall continue to pray
for this happy event.

R. F. MALLOTT.

Verily, verily, travellers have
seen many idols in many coun-
tries; but no human eyes have
ever seen more daring, gross,
and shocking images of the Di-
vine nature than we creatures of
the dust make in our own like-
ness of our own bad passions.